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PHOTO SERIES NO. 30

HARVESTING AND MARKETING FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

Flue-cured tobacco - our principal cigarette type - is produced and marketed in a number of southeastern States. The 1958 crop was more than 1 billion pounds. The pictures in this series, show the harvesting, curing, selling, redrying, and packing of flue-cured tobacco. They were taken in North Carolina in the summer of 1958, for USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.



N-29200--Field of flue-cured tobacco ready for harvesting in North Carolina. Flue-cured tobacco is also grown in Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and to a limited extent in Alabama.



N-29203--Priming or "cropping" flue-cured tobacco. Harvesting is from the bottom up. Bottom leaves mature first and are the first to be harvested.



N-28552--Harvesting flue-cured tobacco. The primed leaves will be placed in the drag.



N-28556--Close-up of loading tobacco into a tobacco drag pulled by mule between the tobacco rows. When flue-cured tobacco leaves are ripe and ready for harvesting, they are primed by hand and hauled by sled or homemade drag to tobacco curing barn.

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.00 each from the same address.



N-29140--Tobacco harvester currently used on a few farms. Seven workers are required to operate this machine.



N-29205--Sledding harvested flue-cured tobacco to looping shed and curing barns.



N-28553--Here a tractor is being used to pull the tobacco drag from field to curing barn, although a mule is more commonly used.



N-29212--Unloading flue-cured tobacco from sled and looping or stringing onto curing sticks.



N-29213--Removing primed leaves from drag for stringing on curing sticks.



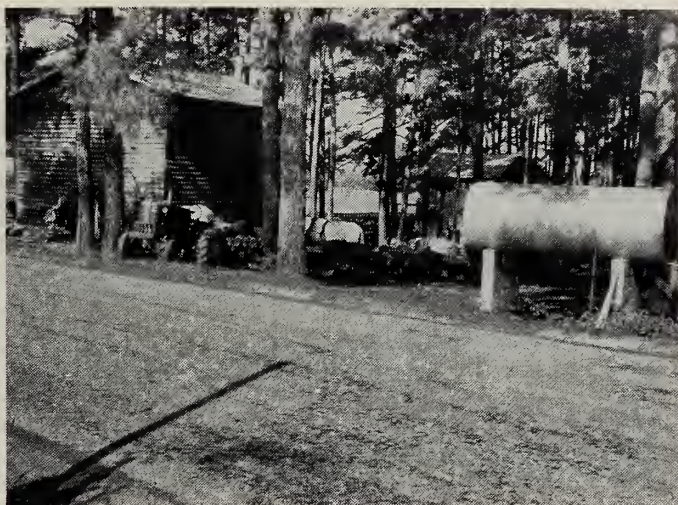
N-28564--"Handling and stringing" flue-cured tobacco.



N-28565--Flue-cured tobacco strung on sticks is passed into curing barn. Tobacco over girl's head at right has been placed in tiers in the barn. The tobacco you see is the bottom of several tiers.



N-28563--Flue-cured tobacco curing barn. Probably the most common dimension for barns is 20 feet square and 20 feet high.



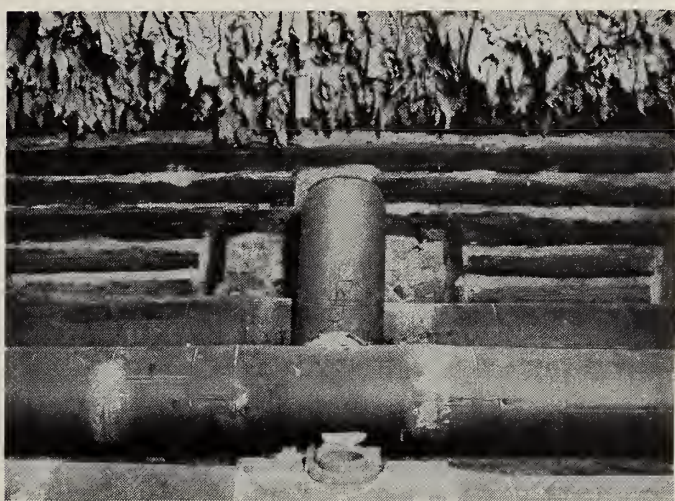
N-29211--Flue-cured tobacco curing barns and oil storage for these barns. Often several barns are grouped together.



N-29223--The most prevalent fuel is oil but wood is still used on some farms.



N-29217--Interior of tobacco curing barn looking up at tier poles.



N-29221--Inside view of a curing barn showing metal flues which carry heat from a furnace on the outside or under one end of the barn.



N-29219--Looking over a barn of flue-cured tobacco. The curing of this tobacco has just been completed.



N-29195--Removing cured tobacco from sticks to be sorted by qualities.



N-29199--Farm-sorting tobacco for market.



N-29197--Tying cured tobacco into "hands" in preparation for market.



N-29154--Flue-cured tobacco auction sales warehouse. Note the skylights.



N-29149--Growers unloading tobacco in flue-cured sales warehouse. Approximate weight of tobacco from truck is 10,250 pounds.



N-29148--Grower delivering tobacco to auction warehouse .



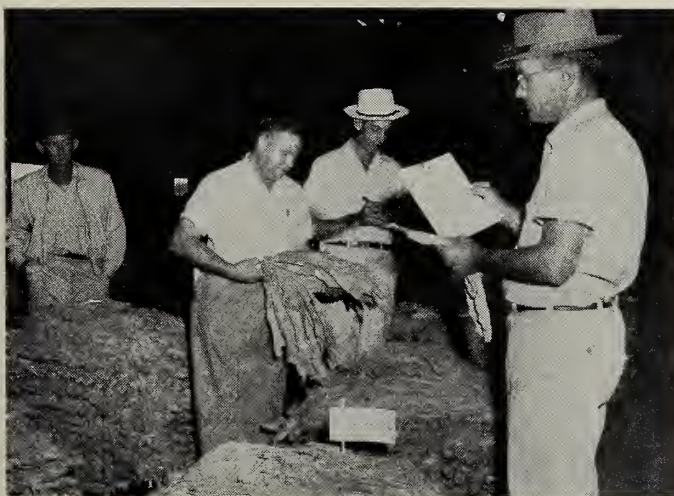
N-29153--Typical basket or lot of tobacco packed for display on sales floor. Square pack in this Type (12), round pack in other flue-cured types. U. S. Official Standard Grade B3L.



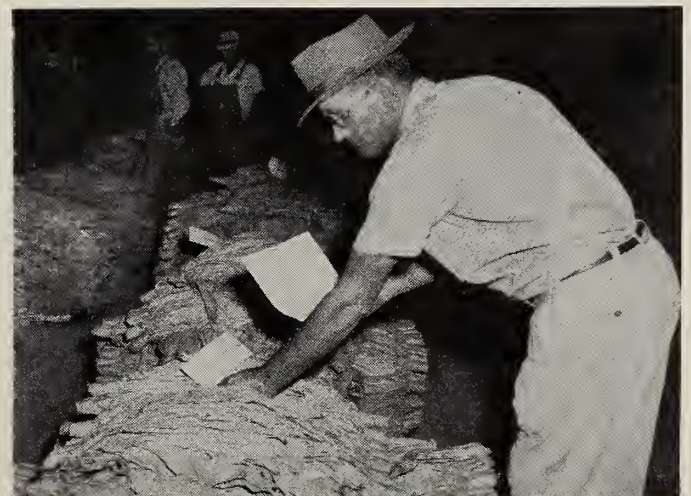
N-29150--Tobacco being weighed at auction warehouse .



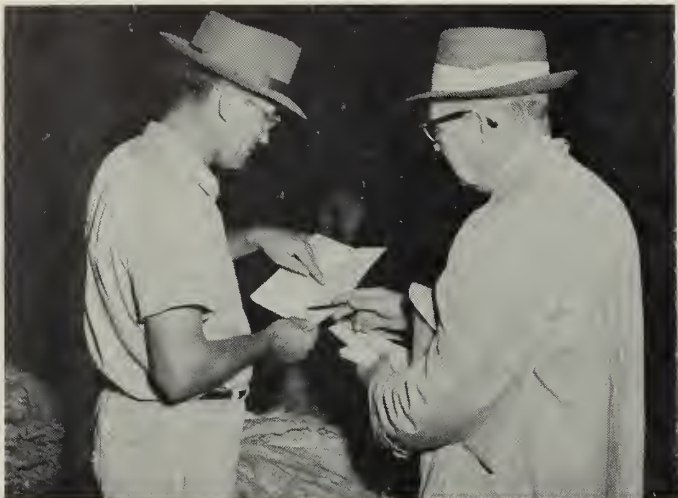
N-29185--Tobacco growers discussing a basket of fine quality tobacco.



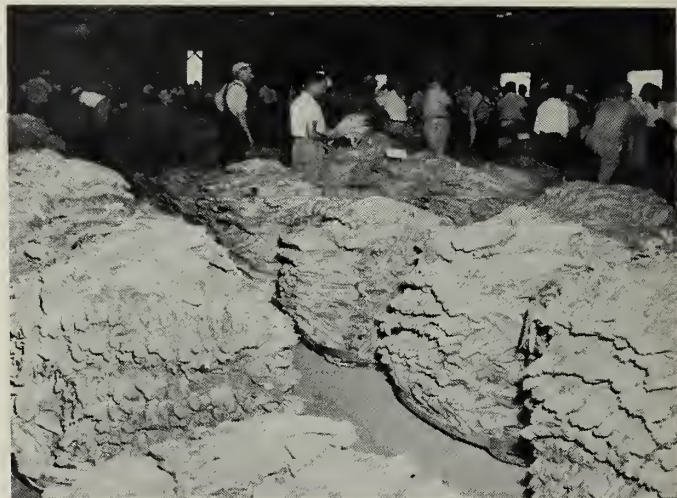
N-29181--A Federal tobacco inspector (center) grading a basket of tobacco prior to auction sale.



N-29183--Grower looking at the grade on the lot of tobacco to check the current market price for the grade. Tobacco market news reports showing current market averages by grades are provided by Agricultural Marketing Service.



N-29182--Grower discussing tobacco market news report with a Federal grading official.



N-29191--Tobacco lined up for sales on auction warehouse floor.



N-29160--Flue-cured tobacco auction sale in progress.



N-29186--Another tobacco auction sale.



N-29187--Recording sales information for daily USDA tobacco market news reports.



N-29147--Market news reporter and staff preparing daily USDA market news report.



N-29151--The daily USDA tobacco market news reports are placed at convenient locations in the auction warehouses.



N-29189--Loading out from auction warehouse floor. Leaf bought by a tobacco company is being removed from sales floor to be taken to a redrying plant.



N-29171--Blending room in redrying plant. USDA tobacco inspector certifying the grade, prior to redrying, for tobacco which has been placed under loan.



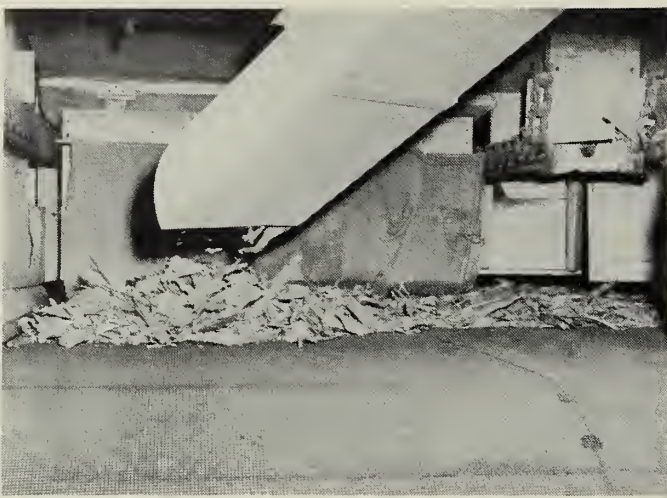
N-29169--Hanging line showing blending of tobacco prior to redrying. All flue-cured tobacco is redried prior to packing in hogsheads.



N-29163--Tobacco entering redrying machine on chain conveyor.



N-29174--Tobacco being placed into hogsheads as it comes from the redrying machine.



N-29166--Stemmed tobacco is conveyed through redrying machine on a belt conveyor as illustrated. Much of the tobacco is stemmed prior to redrying.



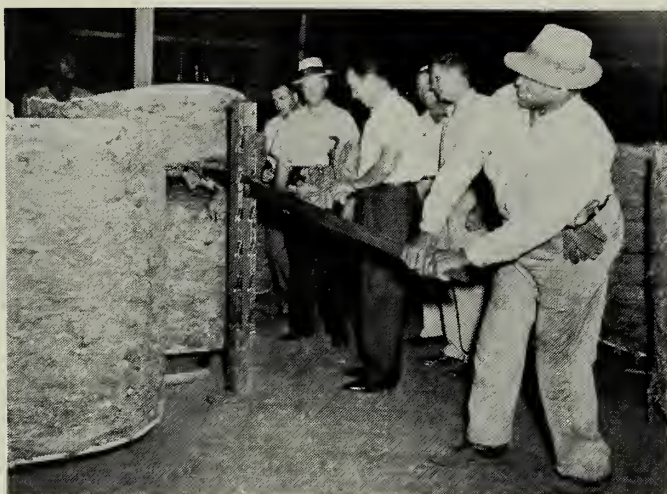
N-29179--Cooperage of tobacco hogsheads.



N-29180--Tobacco storage warehouse. Interior, hogshead tiers stored in bays. Overhead bug or beetle traps for estimating infestation. Overhead center line of skylights for inspection of redried hogshead tobacco.



N-29192--Stripped hogsheads of redried tobacco for review by prospective buyers.



N-29193--Stripped hogshead of redried flue-cured tobacco being inspected.



N-29157--Tobacco warehouses for storing redried tobacco in hogsheads. Capacity of the 11 storage buildings in this group is 41,800 hogsheads, or about 41,800,000 pounds.